

Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre

1. Develop sampling protocols
2. Co-ordinate data storage
3. Facilitate data sharing
4. Provide training courses
5. Promote discussion
6. Facilitate cross-Scotland projects



Key Dates

- 15th-16th Oct** GIS for fisheries managers (**places**)
- 17th Oct** GIS workshop (**places available**)
- 21st-22nd Oct** Database design (**1 place available**)
- 12th Dec** Committee meeting
- 15th-16th Jan** Biologists meeting

A note from the chairman

While juggling the many smaller day to day issues for The SFCC, our current focus is on the development of a long term training programme, particularly for electro-fishing refresher courses, habitat surveying and GIS. In the short term we have some excellent training courses arranged for October and we have carried out our first trial of the electro-fishing refresher course which we plan to roll out to members in 2014. We are also starting to look at the long term future of The SFCC with a 5 year vision statement to be discussed by committee in December.

As mentioned in Sean's report, we are on the way to developing a new SFCC website that will be up and running by the end of the year – our aim is to make this site an important resource for members as well as improving our profile in the fisheries sector.

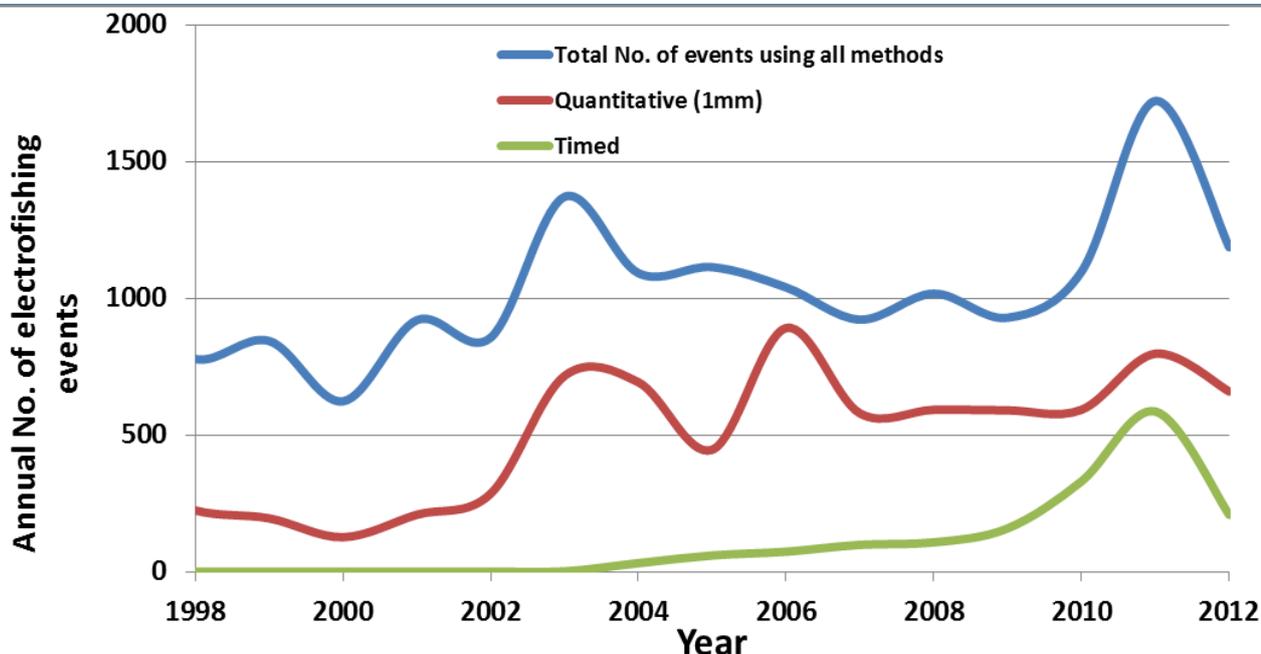
IBIS/Loughs Agency host SFCC Electrofishing Courses in Northern Ireland



28 participants from The Loughs Agency, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the University of Ulster have completed SFCC Introductory Electrofishing courses in Derry~Londonderry. Staff from the Galloway Fisheries Trust travelled from Scotland to deliver the course, providing a sound theoretical and practical foundation in the fundamentals of electrofishing, including health and safety considerations, survey techniques and fish monitoring and measurement.

Art Niven, Fisheries Biologist with the Loughs Agency said *"We have been looking for a suitably accredited course in electrofishing for our staff for some time and have been very impressed at the quality, structure and delivery of the SFCC Introductory Electrofishing course. It has met our needs in ensuring that Loughs Agency staff and partners are operating safely in the field and surveying consistently across regions. By accessing the SFCC SVQ accredited course, Loughs Agency staff and partners have been able to contribute towards their continuing professional development. Certification has been an important element of this as it demonstrates compliance with, in the Loughs Agency opinion, the best industry standard currently available in the British Isles. The Loughs Agency hopes to offer the SFCC Team Leader course to staff in the near future"*





Annual numbers of electrofishing events published on The SFCC database for timed, quantitative (1mm), and all methods (inc. 5mm quant. and presence / absence) for the 1998 – 2012 seasons. Note the increasing use of timed protocols in recent years and the impact on electrofishing efforts caused by the wet summer in 2012.

Sean's Report

As of today (October 11th), our electrofishing database holds 16,087 electrofishing events at over 1500 sites across Scotland. With additional Trusts including The Nith and Tay inputting data for the first time this season, and favorable surveying conditions, the number of sites stored in the database will continue to increase.

GIS and database design courses are planned for October with good attendance from a range of members. Please get in touch if you are interested as a limited number of places have arisen due to last minute cancellations. If you are unable to attend, or wish to re-cap, The SFCC are working on delivering online learning resources to support the GIS course.

We are pleased to announce that Simon Walter from Online Integrity Ltd (Atlantic Salmon

Trust website), has been chosen to develop our new website. This site will be an important resource for members and it is hoped will raise the profile of your work. Please let us know of any specific resources you would wish to be publicized on our website.

The [SFCCTV online video](#) tutorial resource is now running featuring brief videos including electrofishing database tutorials and fish autopsy.

Video subject request

I wish to film the work of Trusts on the ground to showcase sound research protocols in action. Please do get in touch with any suggestions you may have, and I will look into visiting your catchment. All the best,

Sean

Habitat Survey Protocol Review

While many Trusts continue to utilize The SFCC survey method, the need to revise and streamline our protocol has been identified. Feedback from members is being incorporated into producing 1) an updated version of our existing protocol, and 2) a new rapid walkover assessment method. This protocol will also constitute parameters from the Hendry & Cragg-Hine (2003) approach which can improve the ability to directly reflect fish populations. A new handheld device has recently been developed by The River Dee Trust, who are kindly allowing The SFCC to trial their new method.

